AN ACT
To amend and reenact R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(b) and to enact R.S. 17:5002(D), relative to the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students; to provide relative to the use of TOPS-Tech Awards; to provide that such awards may be used only for certain degrees and programs as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council; to provide relative to students; to provide for the effectiveness of certain provisions of law relative to the privacy of student data; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:3048.1(B)(2)(introductory paragraph) and (4)(b) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

§3048.1. Program awards; eligibility; amounts; limitations; funding; administration

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B.

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(2) As part of the Louisiana Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, for students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000 school year, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the actual cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter, and for For students graduating from high school through the 1999-2000 school year, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the actual cost of tuition of any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in a Louisiana public postsecondary institution to pursue skill or occupational training, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter.

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school during the 2000-2001 school year and thereafter through the 2015-2016 school year, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who enrolls on a full-time basis in an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Section to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents administering agency, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, and who meets the following qualifications of this Paragraph and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter. For students graduating from high school during the 2016-2017 school year and thereafter, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency in accordance with the provisions of Subparagraph (f) of this Paragraph for any student who meets the qualifications of this Paragraph and all other applicable qualifications of this Chapter and who enrolls on a full-time basis in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council of an eligible college or university as defined in Subsection A of this Section. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

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(4)

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(b)(i) For a student who graduates from high school prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is the recipient of a TOPS-Tech Award, and who enrolls in a school that is eligible pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph to pursue skill or occupational training as defined by the Board of Regents administering agency, including a vocational or technical education certificate or diploma program or a nonacademic undergraduate degree, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of

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amounts paid under this Section for students attending public colleges and
universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or occupational training, as may
be applicable. Eligible schools and programs shall report on awards to the Senate
Committee on Education, the House Committee on Education, and the Joint
Legislative Committee on the Budget not later than sixty days before the start of each
regular session of the legislature.

(ii) For a student who graduates from high school during the 2016-2017
school year and thereafter, who is the recipient of a TOPS-Tech Award, and who
enrolls in a school that is eligible pursuant to the provisions of Subparagraph (a) of
this Paragraph to pursue skill or occupational training in those associate's degree and
other shorter-term training education programs that are aligned to state workforce
priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce
Investment Council, the state shall award an amount determined by the administering
agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid under this Section for students
attending public colleges and universities who are enrolled in the permitted skill or
occupational training, as may be applicable. If the Board of Regents and the
Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer
aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously
received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.
Eligible schools and programs shall report on awards to the Senate Committee on
Education, the House Committee on Education, and the Joint Legislative Committee
on the Budget not later than sixty days before the start of each regular session of the
legislature.

Section 2. R.S. 17:5002(D) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§5002. Awards and amounts

D.(1) Except as otherwise provided in this Subsection, a student who is
eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter and who is enrolled:
(a) In an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training and education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the college or university. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

(b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph in those associate's degree or other shorter-term training education programs that are aligned to state workforce priorities as determined by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts paid to students attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level. If the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Workforce Investment Council determine that a program is no longer aligned with those priorities, an otherwise eligible student who had previously received an award and enrolled in that program may continue to use the award.

(2) A student who graduated prior to the 2016-2017 school year, who is eligible for a TOPS-Tech Award pursuant to this Chapter, and who is enrolled:

(a) In an eligible college or university that does not offer an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the tuition charged by the college or university.

(b) In an eligible college or university other than as provided for in Subparagraph (a) of this Paragraph shall be awarded by the state an amount determined by the administering agency to equal the weighted average of amounts
paid to students attending an eligible public college or university that does not offer
an academic undergraduate degree at the baccalaureate level.

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Section 3. References to R.S. 17:5002(D) in this Act refer to this Subsection as
enacted in the Act that originated as House Bill No. 705 of this 2015 Regular Session of the
Legislature.

Section 4.(A) Sections 1 and 2 of this Act are intended to achieve the same purpose
but are drafted differently. Section 1 amends provisions of law as they are presently.
Section 2 amends provisions of law as they will be if House Bill No. 705 of this 2015
Regular Session of the Legislature becomes law. Only one of the two Sections shall be
given effect as specifically provided in Section 5 of this Act.

(B) Regarding any conflict between the provisions of this Act and the provisions of
the Act that originated as House Bill No. 705 of this 2015 Regular Session of the
Legislature, the provisions of this Act shall supercede and control regardless of the order of
passage.

Section 5.(A) If House Bill No. 705 of this 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature
becomes law, the provisions of Section 1 of this Act shall not become effective.

(B) If House Bill No. 705 of this 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature does not
become law, the provisions of Section 2 of this Act shall not become effective.

Section 6.(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2 of House Bill No. 718 of
this 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature, the provisions of the Act that originated as
House Bill No. 718 of this 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature shall become effective
upon signature of that Act by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration
of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article
III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If that Act is vetoed by the governor and
subsequently approved by the legislature, that Act shall become effective on the day
following such approval.

(2) The provisions of this Section shall become effective upon signature of this Act
by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to
become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the

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Constitution of Louisiana. If this Act is vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Section shall become effective on the day following such approval.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: ____________________